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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
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**Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of HB631**  
***State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators -- Board Membership and***  
***Provisional Licensing Requirements***  
**February 13, 2020**

House Bill 631 would alter the requirements for appointment to the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators and expand their ability to act effectively on a case-by-case basis.

Currently, the Board consists of fourteen members. Six members are actively practicing licensed nursing home administrators with at least five years' experience. The remaining members represent medical practitioners, social workers, consumers, and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. With the exception of the State Ombudsman and consumer members, State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators members are appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary of Health.

The Secretary of Health is currently required to consult with professional associations and societies before making recommendations to the Governor for appointments of health care practitioners. This includes requiring applicants to the Board submit a recommendation letter from an association. This requirement limits the amount of eligible applicants to those affiliated with professional associations, and it is also not a universal requirement; other health occupations boards do not require a recommendation letter from an association for before appointment by the Governor.

House Bill 631 would lift this requirement, broadening eligibility to allow applications from licensed health care practitioners who are not affiliated with any professional associations. Instead, the Bill would expand standards to require members to be actively practicing licensed practitioners and have at least five years of appropriate practice experience.

House Bill 631 would also expand on the Board's ability to make case-by-case assessments.

The Board is currently authorized to issue a provisional nursing home administrator license for a period of 90 days. This bill would allow provisional licenses to be issued for less than 90 days, if warranted. Provisional licenses are issued for "unexpected cause" situations, when a nursing home facility has been left suddenly without a licensed nursing home administrator and must appoint someone to an interim position. This permits the Board to issue a provisional license for less than 90 days, which allows them more discretion in reviewing each provisional time frame on a case-by-case basis. It allows the Board to make reasonable and warranted decisions for each application, rather than require them to abide by a one-size-fits-all approach.

House Bill 631 expands the ability of the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators to act effectively and professionally. I ask for your favorable report.